

Your Housing Newsletter

August 2006

Volume 1, Issue 7
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Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri ⇌ 0830-1630

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Housing Division Bldg 28
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Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

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REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN FORT MONROE

BRAC RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Department of Defense requires that BRAC sites that are transferring property to the community establish a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB serves as a forum for the discussion of environmental restoration information between agencies and the community. The RAB also provides an opportunity for RAB members to review progress and participate in dialogue with the installation's decision makers.

The RAB will be composed of representatives of Fort Monroe, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state and local governments, and the affected community. Fort Monroe would like to include a member of resident housing on the RAB. The criteria for selection are:

- Fort Monroe housing resident
- Expect to remain at Monroe for about 3 years
- Enlisted member, NCO, warrant officer, officer, or spouse

Name

Address

Phone Number (s)

A short statement of why you would like to be considered for membership

RAB members are expected to serve a 1-3 year term and attend all RAB meetings (at least quarterly). Duties and responsibilities include reviewing and commenting on plans and activities associated with the environmental restoration program at Fort Monroe, VA. Members are expected to be available to community members and groups to facilitate the exchange of information and/or concerns between the community and the RAB. Participation in the RAB is strictly voluntary and members will not be financially compensated.

Applications must be received by 23 August 2006 to be considered. Quarterly meetings are expected to begin in September 2006. Please address any questions to the Deputy to the Garrison Commander, at 788-3241.

Safe Bar-B-Q Grilling ***Protect your Family and Property***

It is for the entire family to be savvy about outdoor cooking. All grills, gas and charcoal, can be extremely dangerous if not cared for and used properly and have the potential to lead to tragedy when carelessness causes structural fires or serious burns to people and pets. According to the Insurance Information Institute, backyard barbecues result in more than 2-thousand fires, over 300 grill related injuries and 3 or more deaths each year.

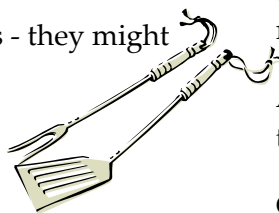
Below are some gas grill safety tips - they might help prevent a tragedy...

Avoid Deadly Grilling Dangers

Keep a fire extinguisher accessible near your grill area when you begin. Be sure you know *how to use a fire extinguisher* before you need it!

Do not wear loose clothing while cooking.

Be vigilant when you have small children around. There are many potential hazards from the lighter fluid, from the propane tanks or just the hot surface of the grill.



***Be sure all children know how to dial 911
for any emergency situation***

Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, party tents, patio, fire escapes or under a surface that can catch fire.

Rest your grill at least 15-20 feet from the house, car, trees and party decorations.

Be aware of the regulations and ordinances for barbecuing if you live in a condo, townhouse or apartment complex. A hot grill too close to the siding of a balcony or patio can melt or burn it.

Never leave any grill unattended or allow children to play or run in the area of the grill.

Remember that alcoholic beverages are flammable! Keep them away from the grill.

Specifics on Gas Grills...

Liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane, used in gas grills, is extremely flammable.

Use extreme caution and always follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting or disconnecting LP gas containers. Never attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See an LP gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.

A gas grill should be checked for leaks every time the cylinder is replaced.

Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease.

Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockage and push it through to the main part of the burner.

Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks.

Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.

Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.

If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them.

Replace scratched or nicked connectors, which can eventually leak gas.

Checking for gas leaks...

Check for gas leaks, as per manufacturer's instructions, if you smell gas or when you reconnect the grill to the LP gas container.



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Follow the manufacturer's instructions, however you can also take a soapy solution (one part dish soap, five parts water) and pour it over the connections. The solution will begin to bubble if there is a leak.

If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and do not attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed! Do not attempt to repair or fix the leak yourself! See an LP gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.

Keep lighted cigarettes, matches or open flames away from a leaking grill.

Gas Grill Usage

When lighting the grill, keep the top open. If the grill does not light in first several attempts, wait 5 minutes to allow gas to dissipate.

Always check the ordinances and rules regarding grilling where you live.

If Your Gas Grill Catches on Fire...

If the fire is in the grill portion and seems "out of control" simply turn off the burners.

If the fire involves one of the hoses and you can safely reach the propane tank valve, shut the tank valve off.

If the fire involves the tank, leave it alone, evacuate the area and call the fire department

If there is any type of fire that threatens either personal safety or endangers property, call the fire department

Storing / Transporting LP Gas

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions that accompany the grill and use caution when storing LP gas containers.

Always keep containers upright.

To avoid accidents while transporting LP gas

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containers, you should transport the container in a secure, upright position.

Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.

Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.

Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

**** Gas Grills manufactured before October 1, 1995...***

Pre 1995 grills are required to have three additional safety features to eliminate leak hazards:

a device to limit the flow of gas in the event of hose rupture; a mechanism to shut-off the grill; and a feature to prevent the flow of gas if the connection between the tank and the grill is not leak proof. You should consider purchasing grills that have these safety features.

Specifics on Charcoal Grills

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO) when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Each year about 30 people die and 300 are injured as a result of poisonous

CO fumes from charcoal grills and hibachis used inside. In addition to the Carbon Monoxide hazard, charcoal grills can cause fires and burn injuries. To reduce injury and CO poisonings, follow these safety tips:

Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers.

Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided!



Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

When lighting a grill, the safest fire starters are chemicals in cake form or a charcoal electric starter.

When using charcoal lighter fluid, follow the directions carefully and do not use too much charcoal lighter fluid. Use only fluid made for charcoal grills and NEVER any other type of fluid!

Never add fire starter after you have started your barbecue or on an open flame. The heat from the coals could ignite the stream of liquid burning back to the can, causing it to explode in your hands!

After cooking, soak the coals in water. Dispose of charcoal in a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Many brush and house fires start because hot coals, thought to be cool, were dumped in leaves or trash cans.

Since charcoal produces CO until it is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Never attempt to re-ignite - dumped old coals and replaced with fresh ones.

A bag of damp or wet charcoal should be immediately and properly disposed of, as it can spontaneously combust.



To speed a slow fire, tuck dry kindling under the charcoal. Make sure the barbecue grill is level and steady and keep a container of water nearby.

*Congratulations To The Winners
Of Our June 2006
Yard Of The Month Competition!*

Ingalls I ~ *Qtrs. 54C*
Reeder Circle ~ *Qtrs. 34C*
Junior Enlisted ~ *N/A*
Ingalls II ~ *Qtrs. 158*
Moat Officer ~ *Qtrs. 16A*
Moat Walk ~ *Qtrs. 150A*
Monroe Apartments ~ *303D Fenwick Road*

Playground Safety

Playgrounds and outdoor play equipment can provide your child with fun, fresh air, and exercise, but they can also pose some safety hazards.



Each year, more than 200,000 kids are treated in hospital ERs for playground-related injuries. Many of these injuries could have been prevented with the proper supervision. You can make the playground a place that's safe for your child by following some simple safety guidelines

In addition, teaching your child how to play safely is important: if your child knows the rules of the playground, it's less likely he or she will get hurt.

Adult Supervision

Parents can help prevent playground accidents by ensuring that there is adult supervision, and that any equipment appropriate to the child's age and maturity level. Ensure children properly use any playground equipment and don't engage in unsafe behavior around it. If an injury does occur, an adult can assist the child and administer any needed first aid right away.



Young children (and sometimes older ones) can't always gauge distances properly and foresee dangerous situations by themselves. Older children often love to test their limits on the playground, so it's important for an adult to be there to keep them in check.

Younger children should not play on equipment designed for older kids because its sizes and proportions won't be right and this can lead to injury. Likewise, older children should not play on equipment

designed for younger children since smaller equipment and spaces can cause problems.

Help keep your playground clean and safe by picking up trash, using the equipment properly, and reporting any problems to the organization that is responsible for the upkeep of the playground. If a part seems broken or in need of other maintenance, designate it off limits and immediately report the problem to the appropriate authorities.

Teach Your Child About Playground Safety

Safe playground equipment and adult supervision are extremely important, but it's only half of the equation: Kids must know how to be safe and act responsibly at the playground. Here are some general rules you can teach to your child:

Never push or roughhouse while on jungle gyms, slides, seesaws, swings, and other equipment.

Use equipment properly - slide feet first, no climbing outside guardrails, no standing on swings, etc.

If jumping off equipment, need to ensure that there are no other children are in the way - land on both feet with knees slightly bent.

Leave bikes, backpacks, and bags away from the playing area to avoid tripping and falling.

Never use wet playground equipment because moisture causes the surface to be slippery.



Continues to page 8

CLEANING TIPS OF THE MONTH



Cleaning Tips for Bathrooms

Bathtubs: Fiberglass bathtubs can be cleaned by mild detergents or liquid soaps and non-scratching pads. Scratching pads will mar the surface of fiberglass. Bathtub rings are result of hard water. A water softener will remove all the problems of ring formation in bathtubs. Ammonia based sprays, vinegar or baking soda removes the formed rings.

Showerhead: need to be cleaned often. If it becomes clogged, it may be due to hard water or rust deposits. Try removing the shower head and seeing if there are small deposits in the filter that you may remove by soaking in a vinegar or citrus solutions for ½ hr and cleaning. Spraying the solution inside the head may also do the trick.

Soap Scum: it leaves a white film on the floors and glass shower doors. If it is possible to change to liquid soaps, it is a better alternative. Talc in soap is responsible for build up of soap adding only volume to soap and any value to it.

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Air Conditioning Maintenance

With warmer temperatures fast approaching you can check a few things:

If your quarters have window A/C units, be sure the air filter is clean before starting up the unit. The filter is located behind the front cover and is easy to get to. After the filter has been removed, it can be washed off or replaced. Most window unit filters are made of a foam type material and can be washed off with a garden hose. You may need to spray it down first with some window cleaner and then rinse it off. If the filter is falling apart or has holes in it, check with the Self-Help Store for a replacement filter.

Check the coils behind the filter for dust and dirt buildup, if you have this problem the Self- Help Store has an aerosol spray coil cleaner; simply spray it on coils, and when the unit is running the condensation will rinse the coils off.

Do not use extension cords on window A/C units. Cords will overheat and can cause a fire hazard. Seal around all openings between the A/C unit and the window. Materials can be found at the Self-Help Store.

If you have a Central A/C system, check the air filter in the system, some are located at the air handler unit, and some are in the return air filter grille. Most filters used in this system

are dischargeable. You can contact the Self-Help Store (788-2563) for a replacement, but keep the old filter so we will know what size you need.

Keep tall grass, mulch, wood, toys, etc. from blocking airflow around the outside condensing unit. The condensing unit needs all the air it can get to keep the unit running cool and efficiently. One of the big problems with any outside A/C condensing unit is a build up of grass and dirt from repeated lawn mowing. When the unit is running and the lawn is being mowed close by, the unit can suck up the mower discharge into the coils on the unit. If you see a build up of dirt and dead grass on the unit coils, turn the unit off at the thermostat and use a garden hose to spray down the outside of the coils. A mild soap solution such as 409 can be used first. Let it sit for about five minutes and then rinse. Let the unit sit for a few minutes then turn it back on.

Do not spray water from the top down to the inside of the unit!



U Can Do It

~ *With Your Self-Help Store!* ~

VT Griffin Services maintain a database file for the Self-Help Store of all authorized Self-Help program users – Family Housing customers and building coordinators. All personnel shall process through self-help for clearing post so we can update the database and delete the customer file. In addition, this will ensure that all equipment and tools loaned to Self-Help program customers seeking clearance have been returned prior to authorizing the clearance. If you have any questions, please contact the Self-Help Store at 788-2563. Listed below are only some of the many items available at the Self Help Store.

1. Lawn Care Items

Lawnmower (gas)
 Weedeater (gas) Edger, Sidewalk (gas/elec)
 Trimmer, Hedge (gas/elec)
 Blower, Leaf (elec)
 Wheelbarrow
 Rake, Leaf/Garden
 Pitchfork
 Shovel, Round Point/Scoop
 Grass Seed
 Fertilizer
 Spreader, Seed/Fertilizer
 Lopping, Limb Hand



2. Miscellaneous Items

Filter, AC/Heating
 Lamps, Fluo/Incd/Flood/Appliance
 Bag, Trash Plastic
 Rod, Curtain Single/Double
 Shade, Window
 Paint, Interior/Exterior
 Bait Station, Ant/Roach
 Screening, Wire
 Stripping, Weather
 Stopper, Bath Tub/Disposal
 Strainer, Basket Sink
 Aerator, Faucet
 Hook, Coat /Hat
 Filter, Water
 Oil, WD-40
 Tape, Duct
 Stop, Door
 Sheeting, Plastic Clear
 Caulk, Tubs/Shower/Sink
 Compound, Spackling
 Trap, Mice
 Bar, Towel
 Battery, Detector, Smoke/Carbon Monox.
 Shower Head
 Hose, Dryer
 Closer, Storm Door



Cleaning Tips for Bathrooms – cont. from previous page

Changing the soap will reduce the frequency of removing soap scum.

Mold and Mildew: The black spots around the grout are an indication that the mildew is starting to grow. Mildew can be eliminated by chlorine or hydrogen peroxide based solutions – they cut through the mildew and completely overcome it. No need to scratch or rub. One to three applications may be needed.

Shower Curtains: become greasy with oils from soaps. Dirt spots also deposit and mildew may form on the curtain. Soak it in salt water or rubbing with lemon juice before washing in washing machine.

Mirrors & Glass Shower Doors: are best cleaned when dry. Rub mirrors with an old newspaper, or lint free cloth to clean them effectively. A really good tip: Apply rain-x to your clean glass shower doors (follow manufactures directions as applying it on your windshield) When taking a shower the water will just run down in sheets and will not get hard water spots or soap scum building up and glass and shower doors will shine like new for 6 months or more. (Be careful here and don't spill any on the shower floor).

More on Bathroom Tips in the September 2006 Issue

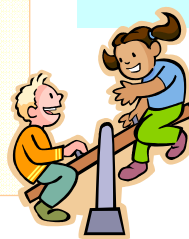
Playground Safety – cont. from page 5

During the summertime, playground equipment can become dangerously hot, especially metal slides. Use good judgment – if the equipment feels hot to the touch, it's probably not safe or fun to play on.

Don't wear clothes with drawstrings or other strings at the playground. Drawstrings, purses, and necklaces could get caught on equipment and accidentally strangle a child.

Wear sunscreen when playing outside even on cloudy days so that you don't get sunburned.

Before you visit a playground, ensure that play areas are designed to allow an adult to clearly see kids while playing on all the equipment.



- Feedback -

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. It has been created for you! Please let us know what you think about our efforts to bring you information - give us your ideas - we want to ensure this Newsletter ("your" Newsletter) is tailored to suit your needs. Please provide comments and/or suggestions to our office by phone at 788-4150 or via email at monroe.housing@us.army.mil.

***THE HOUSING STAFF
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!***

CHIEF OF HOUSING
☎: 788-6105

HOUSING INSPECTOR
☎: 788-4338

***HOUSING REFERRAL/
MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT***
☎: 788-2129

***HOUSING ASSIGNMENT/
MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT***
☎: 788-2127

***HOUSING MANAGEMENT
SPECIALIST***
☎: 788-4150

Office Fax No. : 788-2104

